



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALBUQUERQUE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
4101 JEFFERSON PLAZA NE
ALBUQUERQUE NM 87109-3435

Finding of No Significant Impact
Proposed Construction of a Low-Head Weir, Rio Jemez,
Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico
August 2003

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Albuquerque District, in coordination with the Pueblo of Santa Ana, is proposing to construct a low-head weir on the Rio Jemez and lands of the Pueblo of Santa Ana. This action is partial mitigation for adverse consequences of the evacuation of the sediment pool at Jemez Canyon Reservoir Project, which occurred during October 2001. The purpose of the proposed project is to minimize channel degradation of the Rio Jemez and to preserve approximately 390 acres of mixed native and exotic riparian habitat upstream of the proposed project site. The proposed project is located in Sandoval County, New Mexico, and construction would occur during the period August 2003 through March 2004.

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was released for public and agency review on June 19, 2003, and the public and agency review and comment period ended July 23, 2003. No public review comments were received by the Corps.

The proposed action evaluated in the draft EA entails the Corps and the Pueblo of Santa Ana placing a series of four interlocked polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sheetpile sections (weir) within the Rio Jemez channel. The weir would be oriented roughly perpendicular to the channel, approximately 2.5 miles upstream of Jemez Canyon Dam. Two wing dikes would be constructed, one on each side of the river channel on the upstream side of the weir, to maintain higher peak flows within the existing channel. The wing dikes would be earthen berms, covered in rock armor, with a maximum height of approximately two ft. above the height of the weir. The dikes would be approximately 435 ft. long, flaring out from each bank in the upstream direction. The Corps has conducted a hydraulic analysis study to justify this design.

The potential effects of this proposed action are judged to be superior in qualitative and quantitative benefits to the ecological, cultural, and hydrologic resources at the Pueblo of

Santa Ana, as compared to the no-action and other viable alternatives. Measures to minimize any potential adverse consequences to the federally listed southwestern willow flycatcher and bald eagle are specified in the final EA. The proposed project would have no adverse effect on historic properties that are known to occur in the area. Appended is documentation of our consultation with the New Mexico Historic Preservation Officer and their concurrence.

The attached final EA further concludes that there are no significant adverse social or economic effects to the tribal and regional community by the action of the selected alternative.

In consideration of the analysis presented in this final EA, the proposed action is found to have no significant impacts on the human environment and is recommended for implementation. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for this federal action. Further, this action has been determined to be in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as pertinent tribal laws and regulations. The planned action has been fully coordinated with federal and tribal agencies and departments of government with jurisdiction over the ecological, cultural, and hydrologic resources of the proposed project area.

A notice of availability of this finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and availability of the final EA has been prepared and advertised to concerned agencies, organizations, and the interested public.

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Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer